

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
EASTERN DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
v.)
CHRISTOPHER LAJUAN HEARD)
a/k/a "Sleepy")
CR. NO. 3:06-cr-236-MEF

PLEA AGREEMENT

DEFENSE COUNSEL: **Donnie Wayne Bethel**

ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY: Christopher A. Snyder

COUNT AND STATUTE CHARGED:

Count 1: 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1) (Felon in Possession)

PENALTIES BY COUNT – MAXIMUM PENALTY:

Count 1: Sentence: a term of imprisonment of not more than ten years, but if previously convicted of three violent felonies or serious drug offenses, then a term of imprisonment of not more than life; and a fine of not more than \$250,000, or both; a term of supervised release of not more than three years, but if previously convicted of three violent felonies or serious drug offenses, then term of supervised release of not more than five years; an assessment fee of \$100 per count; and an order of restitution.

ELEMENTS OF THE OFFENSE

Count 1:

1. The defendant knowingly possessed a firearm or ammunition in or affecting interstate commerce, as charged; and
2. Before the defendant possessed the firearm or ammunition, the defendant had been convicted in a court of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term in excess of one year, that is, a felony offense.

Christopher A. Snyder, Assistant United States Attorney, and Donnie Wayne Bethel,

attorney for the defendant, pursuant to 11(c)(1)(C), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, as Amended, have, with the authorization of the undersigned defendant, entered into discussions with a view towards reaching a pretrial conclusion of the charges pending in the Indictment in this case and a Plea Agreement has been reached by said parties. The plea is being submitted to the Court pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(c)(1)(C), and the parties understand that, if the terms of the Plea Agreement are not accepted by the Court, the defendant will be allowed to withdraw the defendant's plea of guilty and proceed to trial. If the Court accepts this agreement, however, and defendant thereafter breaches this agreement, his guilty plea may not be withdrawn.

GOVERNMENT'S PROVISIONS

1. For purposes of the calculation of defendant's offense level under the United States Sentencing Guidelines, the government agrees that:
 - a. Pursuant to U.S.S.G., App. A of the 2006 Sentencing Guidelines, the applicable guideline is U.S.S.G. § 2K2.1.
 - b. The 2-level decrease for acceptance of responsibility is applicable. See U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(a), so long as, between the date of this agreement and the date of sentencing, defendant does not obstruct justice, commit any new federal or state offenses, or otherwise fail to accept responsibility for the offense conduct.
 - c. The government will move for an additional 1-level decrease based on defendant's timely notification of his intent to plead guilty, if that decrease is applicable to defendant's sentence. See U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(b).
2. The government agrees, with the defendant, to a sentence at the low end of the applicable Guideline's range.
3. If the defendant qualifies, he may argue that he possessed "all ammunition and firearm solely for lawful sporting purposes" and "did not unlawfully discharge or otherwise

unlawfully use such firearms or ammunition" pursuant to Guideline Section 2K2.1(b)(2). The government, however, will oppose this request. Furthermore, the defendant may not argue that he "possessed all ammunition and firearms solely for collection" pursuant to Guideline Section 2K2.1(b)(2). The government and the defendant agree that other than a motion based upon Guideline Section 2K2.1(b)(2) and any factual objections the defendant may have to the Presentence Investigation Report, the defendant will file no other motions or objections related to the base offense level, specific offense characteristics, adjustment of Guideline levels, or downward departure.

4. The government may argue that the defendant should receive a two level adjustment for obstruction of justice pursuant to Guideline Section 3C1.1. The defendant will oppose this request. The government may also object to or request any other specific offense characteristics, or adjustments it deems appropriate at sentencing.

5. The United States reserves the right to inform the Court and the Probation Department of all facts pertinent to the sentencing process, including all relevant information concerning the offenses and the defendant's background.

DEFENDANT'S PROVISIONS

1. The defendant agrees to plead guilty to Count 1 of the Indictment.
2. The defendant agrees with the calculation of the offense level and the sentence as set forth in paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the government's provisions.
3. The defendant further agrees to the following:
 - a. To forfeit any and all firearms in his possession.
 - b. To not commit state, federal, or local crimes.

c. To waive appeal and collateral attack as detailed below.

FACTUAL BASIS

The defendant admits the allegations charged in Count 1 of the Indictment and understands that the nature of the charge to which the plea is offered involves the following proof as to Count 1: On or about July 9, 2005, in Chambers County, within the Middle District of Alabama, the defendant Christopher Heard, knowing ^{DB by CS CH} possessed the following:

- (1) a Ruger, Model Mini 14, .223 Rifle, a better description of which is unknown to the Grand Jury; and
- (2) 230 Rounds of Wolf .223 55 Grain Ammunition.

Both the rifle and the ammunition had moved in interstate commerce. Previously, Heard had been convicted of Possession of a Controlled Substance, Cocaine in the Circuit Court of Randolph County, Alabama, Case No. DC 2003-761, on or about January 13, 2004. That conviction was a felony.

DEFENDANT'S WAIVER OF APPEAL AND COLLATERAL ATTACK

Understanding that 18 U.S.C. § 3742 provides for appeal by a defendant of the sentence under certain circumstances, the defendant expressly waives any and all rights conferred by 18 U.S.C. § 3742 to appeal the sentence. Defendant specifically waives the right to appeal the sentence on the grounds that the sentencing guidelines are in any respect unconstitutional, or that any fact found by the Court for sentencing was not alleged in the Indictment, admitted by the Defendant, found by a jury, or found beyond a reasonable doubt. Defendant further expressly waives the right to appeal the conviction and sentence on any other ground and waives the right to attack the sentence in any post-conviction proceeding. This waiver does not include the right

to appeal on the grounds of ineffective assistance of counsel and prosecutorial misconduct, or to collaterally attack the sentence imposed on those grounds. But, other than those grounds, the defendant expressly waives the right to appeal or collaterally attack his conviction or sentence on any other ground.

Notwithstanding the above, the defendant reserves the right to file a direct appeal of an upward departure from the applicable Guidelines range which the sentencing court specifies at the time of sentencing as having been imposed pursuant to either U.S.S.G. § 4A1.3 (from criminal history category) or § 5K2.O (from offense level). The defendant understands and agrees that this waiver as to all other Guidelines findings would still be in force and effect notwithstanding the appealability of an upward departure. Defendant knowingly and voluntarily waives any rights defendant has under federal law to a jury determination of any fact affecting Defendant's sentence.

In return for the above waiver by the defendant, the Government does not waive its right to appeal the sentence imposed in the instant case. The Government does not waive its right to appeal any order dismissing the Indictment, vacating a sentence, or otherwise terminating the prosecution at any stage of the proceedings. Further, the parties agree that nothing in this agreement shall affect the Government's right and/or duty to appeal as set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3742(b). However, if the United States appeals the defendant's sentence pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3742(b), the defendant is released from this waiver as to any issue the defendant may raise pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3742(a).

DEFENDANT'S UNDERSTANDING AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

1. The defendant, before entering a plea of guilty to Count 1 of the Indictment as

provided for herein by said Plea Agreement, advises the Court that:

- a. The discussions between the attorney for the government and the attorney for the defendant towards reaching an agreed plea in this case have taken place with the defendant's authorization and consent.
- b. The defendant acknowledges that a breach of this plea agreement will not entitle him to withdraw his guilty plea in this case. The defendant understands and acknowledges that the defendant's guilty plea will remain in full force and effect upon any breach of this agreement by the defendant.
- c. The defendant further understands that, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3013, said \$100.00 assessment fee per count is to be paid by the defendant on the date of sentencing. The defendant will make an honest, good faith effort to pay said fine as directed by the Financial Litigation Section of the United States Attorney's Office. The defendant further understands that by completing and submitting to the Court or the government any financial statements, the defendant is representing that the statement is true and accurate to the best of the defendant's information, knowledge, and belief.
- d. The defendant understands that the defendant has a right to be represented by an attorney at every stage of the proceedings against the defendant herein and is represented by the defendant's undersigned attorney.
- e. The defendant understands that the defendant has the right to plead not guilty and has the right to be tried by a jury and, at a trial thereof, has the right to the assistance of counsel, the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses against the defendant, the right to call witnesses in the defendant's own behalf, and the right not to be compelled to incriminate the

defendant, and that if the defendant enters a plea of guilty herein, there will not be a further trial of any kind and that by the entry of such a plea, the defendant waives the right to a trial by jury or to a trial before the Court.

f. The defendant further understands that in entering a plea of guilty herein, the Court may ask questions about the offense to which the plea is entered and further understands that if the defendant answers these questions under oath, on the record, and in the presence of counsel, which questions and answers would be recorded, that the answers may later be used against the defendant in a prosecution for perjury or false statement if the answers are not truthful.

g. The defendant further understands and advises the Court that the Plea Agreement as set forth herein and the plea to be entered by the defendant as a result thereof is voluntary on the defendant's part and is not the result of any force or threats or of any promises apart from the aforesaid Plea Agreement. The defendant further advises the Court that the Plea Agreement set forth herein is the result of prior discussions between the attorney for the government, and the attorney for the defendant, all conducted with the defendant's authorization, knowledge, and consent.

h. The defendant further advises the Court that the defendant's understanding of this Plea Agreement is as set forth in this document.

i. The defendant further advises the Court that it is understood that the government can only make a recommendation which is not binding on the respective Court.

j. The defendant further advises the Court that the defendant understands and has been advised that evidence of a plea of guilty, later withdrawn or an offer to plead guilty

to the crimes charged in the Indictment herein, or of statements made in connection with and relevant to said plea or offer to plead, shall not be admissible in any civil or criminal proceedings against the defendant. However, the defendant does understand that evidence of a statement made in connection with and relevant to a plea of guilty, later withdrawn, or an offer to plead guilty to the crimes charged in the Indictment herein, is admissible in a criminal proceeding for perjury or false statement when the statement was made by the defendant under oath, on the court record, and in the presence of counsel.

k. The defendant is satisfied that defense counsel has been competent and effective in representing defendant.

2. The undersigned attorney for the government and for the defendant represent to the Court that the foregoing Plea Agreement is the agreement of the parties that has been reached pursuant to the Plea Agreement procedure provided for in Rule 11, Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, as Amended. The attorney for the defendant further advises the Court that the defendant has been advised of the nature of the charge to which the foregoing described plea is to be offered, and that the defendant has been advised of the defendant's right to plead not guilty and to be tried by a jury on all issues herein; of the maximum possible penalty provided by law; that by the entering of a plea of guilty as aforesaid, the defendant waives the right to be tried by a jury or by the Court, waives the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses against the defendant and the right not to be compelled to incriminate the defendant; and that if the defendant pleads guilty, there will not be a further trial of any kind. Further, the defendant has been advised that if the defendant pleads guilty, the Court may ask questions about the offense to which the defendant has pleaded and that if the plea is rejected or later withdrawn, that the

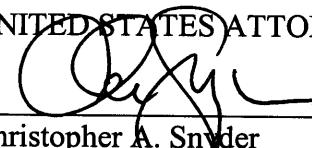
answers to such questions may not be used against the defendant in a civil or criminal proceeding, but that the defendant's answers may later be used against the defendant in a prosecution for perjury or false statement if the answers are not truthful.

3. The defendant understands that the United States Probation Office will prepare a presentence investigation report for the Court. The Probation Officer will consider the defendant's conduct related to the offense to which the plea is offered, as well as the defendant's criminal history. The offense level or criminal history category, as calculated by the Probation Officer and determined by the Court, may differ from that projected by defendant's counsel or the United States Attorney.

This 15th day of March, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

LEURA G. CANARY
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY


Christopher A. Snyder
Assistant United States Attorney
One Court Square
Suite 201
Montgomery, Alabama 36104


Louis V. Franklin
Deputy Chief, Criminal Division

I have read the foregoing Plea Agreement, understand the same, and the matters and facts set forth therein accurately and correctly state the representations that have been made to me and accurately set forth the conditions of the Plea Agreement that has been reached.

IN ADDITION TO THE FOREGOING PROVISIONS TO WHICH I AGREE, I
SWEAR UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT THE FACTS IN THE "FACTUAL BASIS"
PARAGRAPH ABOVE ARE TRUE AND CORRECT AND THAT I AM SATISFIED THAT I
HAVE RECEIVED COMPETENT ADVICE AND REPRESENTATION FROM MY
DEFENSE COUNSEL, Donnie Wayne Bethel.

Christopher L. Heard
Christopher Heard
Defendant
3-2-07
Date

Donnie Wayne Bethel
Donnie Wayne Bethel
Attorney for the Defendant

2 Mar 07
Date